

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0677

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THESSALONIKI

1. THESSALONIKI PRESS OCTOBER 25 GIVES HEAVY COVERAGE TO IMPENDING VISIT PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, FOR WHOM MAJOR AIRPORT RECEPTION PLANNED UPON ARRIVAL THIS EVENING. PRESS REPORTS PM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS GHIKAS, AVEROF AND ZEPPOS, MIN TO PM VLAHOS, PRESS UNDER SEC LINARDATOS AND "ARMY LEADERSHIP".

2. KARAMANLIS TO PRESIDE OVER TRADITIONAL THESSALONIKI FESTIVITIES ON OCCASION OBSERVANCE FEAST OF CITY'S PATRON, ST. DEMETRIOS, OCTOBER 26 INCLUDING DOXOLOGY, WREATH LAYING, PARADE, LUNCHEON BY "C" ARMY CORPS COMMANDER, GEN. AGAMEMNON GRATZIOS, UNIVERSITY PANEGYRIC AND EVENING RECEPTION BY MINICIPAL AUTHORITIES. PRESS REPORTS PARADE WILL FEATURE FIRST H.A.F. FLY-BY OF FORMATION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED U.S. PHANTOM JETS.

3. KARAMANLIS SCHEDULED MAKE MAJOR SPEECH FOLLOWING EVENING, OCTOBER 27, KICKING OFF CAMPAIGN FOR HIS "NEW DEMOCRACY" PARTY. PRESS NOTES PAPANDREOU AND MAVROS WILL ALSO MAKE MAJOR SPEECHES HERE IN THEIR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS NEXT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
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NOVEMBER 2 AND 3, RESPECTIVELY. PROMINENT ATTENTION

GIVEN TO PAPANDREOU'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE
RUNNING FROM THESSALONIKI CONSTITUENCY IN ORDER
"RELIEVE FEAR WHICH I THINK EXISTS AMONG PEOPLE OF
NORTHERN GREECE".

4. OTHER PRESS ITEMS OF LOCAL POLITICAL INTEREST INCLUDE
(A) ARRIVAL HERE TODAY OF LADY AMALIA FLEMING TO PROMOTE
PASOK CAUSE AT LARGE DINNER GATHERING AT ELECTRA PALACE
HOTEL (WHERE PM ALSO RESIDING): (B) RESIGNATION OF
THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR PRESIDENT AND FORMER ERE DEPUTY,
NICOLAOS ZARDINIDES, IN ORDER TO TAKE ACTIVE PART AND BE
CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY ON "NEW DEMOCRACY" TICKET:
(C) APPEARANCE ON THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND
NEARBY BUILDINGS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST SLOGANS AND
PLACARDS URGING STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT FORTHCOMING
NATIONAL ELECTIONS.
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